

a sum total of thickness of the noble layer, as recited in independent claim 1 and similarly recited in independent claim 10.

Bertero teaches a Pt/Co/Pt/Pd multiplayer thin film that provides improved perpendicular anisotropy and magnetic coercivity relative to Pt/Co multilayer thin films without reducing the Kerr rotations provided by the component Pt/Co layers (Abstract). The Office Action implies that Bertero teaches the claimed ratio of thickness of seed layer and sum total of thickness of the noble metal layer that is between 0 and 1.0 (Office Action, page 2, lines 6-11). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Upon closer examination of Bertero, it appears that the thickness X of the seed layer (underlayer 110) includes the platinum underlayer 114 and the palladium underlayer 116 for a total thickness of 90Å (col. 8, lines 55-60). Moreover, the thickness Y, which is the compiled calculation of the sum total of the thickness of the noble metal layer, Cu in example A of Fig. 5F and Ag in example B of col. 6, lines 37-40, which is a total thickness of 100.8Å and 112.8Å, respectively, results in a Y/X ratio that is 1.12 and 1.25, respectively, which is greater than 1.

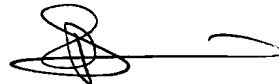
Accordingly, Bertero fails to disclose or suggest the claimed relational expression $0 < Y/X \leq 1.0$, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Moreover, the claimed relational expression between Y and X provides the unexpected result that the claimed ratio maintains the coercive force of the magnetic recording layer in a preferred range while keeping the magnetic interaction α between magnetic grains in the magnetic recording layers sufficiently low, as indicated in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0010] and Fig. 3 which compares different ratios. Therefore, as indicated in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0007], high density recording and a larger noise reduction can be achieved for the specific claimed ratio that cannot be achieved by other ratios such as the ratios disclosed in Bertero.

For at least these reasons, Bertero fails to disclose, suggest or render obvious the features of independent claims 1 and 10. Thus, independent claims 1 and 10, and their dependent claims, are patentable over Bertero. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6, 10-15 and 19-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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